# National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC)

## NIAC Chemical, Biological and Radiological Events and the Critical Infrastructure Workforce

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## Overview

- Objective/Scope
- Assumptions
- Key Questions
- Critical Sectors Represented
- Study Group Timelines
- Discussion

# Objective and Scope

- **Objective:**
  - Provide recommendations for keeping those who work in and maintain areas considered Critical Infrastructure (CI) prepared for a biological event and ensure they have the tools, training, and equipment they need to identify, respond to, and recover from a biological emergency

- **Scope of the activity:**
  - Identify CI operating personnel and biological emergency requirements
  - Identify how needs are currently handled; Identify vulnerabilities in preparedness and response capabilities
  - Identify gaps and solutions



# Assumptions

- Scope:
  - Will focus on biological preparedness, training, awareness, response processes, response tools and technologies, response coordination, etc.
  - Will focus on post-incident continuity and recovery capabilities
  - Will *not* focus on specific threats or threat vectors
  - Will focus on high-risk critical infrastructure, key inter-dependencies, and public-private sector linkages
  - Will address both strategic and appropriate tactical issues
    - Example: strategic awareness issue across an entire critical infrastructure sector vs. lack of tactical communications capability between local and state first responders

# Key Questions

- Common set of data points to collect across critical sectors; contributes to trending/consistency
- Question #1
  - Do CEOs and their organizations have employee awareness, preparedness and response training programs?
    - What is the nature of the training program?
    - Who leads this function?
    - Is this an enterprise issue?
    - Are there industry leaders that excel at biological preparedness?
    - What lessons learned are derived from your experiences or the experiences of those industry leaders?



# Key Questions (cont.)

- Question #2
  - Is there a market incentive to invest in biological preparedness and response programs?
- Question #3
  - Is there sufficient communication infrastructure in place to respond to a biological event?
    - How are owner/operators informed? Via what channels?
    - How quickly is information distributed?
    - What are the bottlenecks to information distribution?
    - What role do SCCs or ISACs play in biological events?

# Key Questions (cont.)

- Question #4
  - What tools and technologies currently support your biological response capability?
  - What tools and technologies are currently insufficient and why do they not meet your requirements?
- Question #5
  - Is there sufficient coordination between federal, state, local and private-sector entities?
    - What inter-dependent plans are currently in place?
    - How is coordination managed between entities at multiple public and private sector levels?
    - How is communication managed?
    - Are there examples of successful exercises across entities?



# Key Questions (cont.)

- Question #6
  - What can the federal government do to encourage or facilitate enhanced preparedness and response capabilities?
- Question #7
  - What are key inter-dependencies in a biological event?
    - How are those inter-dependencies managed? Via what channels? Are they federal, state, local, private or multiple combinations of all four?
    - How are inter-dependent communications managed?

# Key Questions (cont.)

- Question #8
  - What are the three or four critical vulnerabilities facing your organization today?
    - What are the proposed best courses of action to remedy those vulnerabilities?
    - Who owns responsibility for managing these responsibilities and what role should each responsible party play?
    - What is the timeline to address identified vulnerabilities?



# Critical Sectors Represented

- Critical sectors and leads include:
  - Fire/EMS
  - Food and Agriculture
  - Healthcare
  - Water
  - Finance
  - Communications
  - State and Local
  - Electricity
  - Information Technology
  - Commercial Facilities
  - Transportation

## Critical Sectors and Leads (cont.)

- A number of other less-linear contributors:
  - Federal
    - HHS/CDC
    - DHS
    - DoD
  - Companies or representative organizations with biological preparedness/response capabilities
    - Wal-Mart
    - Federal Express
    - Home Depot
    - Business Executives for National Security (BENS)
  - Academia



## Study Group Timeline

- April 15, 2006
  - Data collection and interviews complete
- May 15, 2006
  - First draft of initial findings and recommendations
- June 1, 2006
  - Complete draft findings and recommendations and distribute to NIAC membership
- July NIAC Meeting
  - Present final findings and recommendations

# Discussion

- Questions?